

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICINE

**IN RE: CRAIG S. CROPP, M.D.
 License No.: 0101-058190**

ORDER

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 54.1-105, 54.1-110, 2.2-4020 and 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a formal administrative hearing was convened before the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board"), on June 7, 2003, in Richmond, Virginia, to receive and act upon evidence that Dr. Cropp may have violated certain laws governing the practice of medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These matters are set forth in the Board's Notice of Hearing and Statement of Particulars dated May 2, 2003.

Pursuant to Sections 2.2-4024.F and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code, the hearing was held before a panel of the Board with a member of the Board presiding. The proceedings were recorded by a certified court reporter. The case was prosecuted by Emily Wingfield, Assistant Attorney General. Howard Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Dr. Cropp appeared at the formal administrative hearing and was not represented by legal counsel.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Now, having properly considered the evidence and testimony presented, the Board makes the following findings of fact by clear and convincing evidence:

1. Craig S. Cropp, M.D., was issued license number 0101-058190 to practice medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 13, 1998. Said license is currently active and will expire on March 31, 2004, unless renewed or otherwise restricted.

2. On or about November 30, 2000, Patient A, who suffered from gestational diabetes, presented to Dr. Cropp's office for continued obstetrical care. Dr. Cropp noted that the patient had edema and a proteinuria of +3, up from +1 on November 7 and 16, 2000. Despite her high risk for pregnancy-induced hypertension, Dr. Cropp failed to perform a thorough evaluation of Patient A, and instead ordered a 24-hour urine collection and instructed her to return in two (2) weeks.

3. On or about January 16, 2001, Dr. Cropp admitted Patient B to Pulaski Community Hospital, Pulaski, Virginia ("PCH"), due to abnormal uterine bleeding. Instead of evaluating Patient B through use of an endometrial biopsy, Dr. Cropp performed a hysteroscopy and fractional dilatation and curettage secondary to abnormal uterine bleeding. During the dilation procedure, Dr. Cropp perforated the uterus at the anterior fundal surface to the left of the midline.

4. On or about January 19, 2001, Dr. Cropp admitted Patient C to PCH for dilation and curettage for post-partum hemorrhage following a vaginal delivery on December 19, 2000. During the January 19, 2001 procedure, Dr. Cropp perforated the uterus in the fundus just left of the midline and anterior of the round ligament insertion. Dr. Cropp performed a diagnostic laparoscopy followed by an open laparotomy. Dr. Cropp failed to run the entire bowel to assess damage despite Dr. Cropp's Operative Report indicating a denuded peritoneum on the pelvic sidewall, the etiology of which was unexplained, and bowel injury, which was not well documented.

5. Karen Knapp, M.D., an expert witness on behalf of the Commonwealth, stated that the uterine perforations in Patient B and C's cases constitute isolated incidents and are not significant per se, but when viewed in their totality, represent a pattern of complications raising concerns. Specifically, it is a concern that without having practiced obstetrics and gynecology consistently for a period of time, there is a demonstrated lack of proficiency in surgical technique.

6. Based on his care and treatment of Patients B and C, Dr. Cropp's clinical privileges at PCH were summarily suspended on January 19, 2001. Effective on or about March 6, 2001, Dr. Cropp's clinical privileges were revoked.

7. Dr. Cropp has not performed a surgical procedure since January 2001, has not delivered a patient since that time and has not practiced medicine since January 2002 and provided no evidence of Continuing Medical Education ("CME").

8. Dr. Cropp failed to update his Virginia Physician's Practitioner Profile ("Profile"), within the required time period, to include the January 2001 summary suspension and subsequent March 2001 revocation of his membership on the medical staff of PHC due to the concerns of administrative staff regarding his clinical practice. Dr. Cropp did not update his profile to include the January and March 2001 actions until June 6, 2003. Further, Dr. Cropp admitted that he has not submitted information relative to the suspension of his medical privileges at Wythe County Community Hospital, Wytheville, Virginia, and New River Valley Medical Center, Radford, Virginia in April 14, 2000. Dr. Cropp further testified that he is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology; however, his current profile fails to provide this information.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board defers making conclusions of law relative to Findings of Fact #2 -#7 until such time as it makes a final disposition regarding this matter. The Board has determined that Finding of Fact #8 constitutes a violation of Section 54.1-2915.A(3), as further defined in Section 54.1-2914.A(11) and (13), and Section 54.1-2910.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, Part VII of the Board's General Regulations, "Practitioner Profile System," and Term 4 of the Board's Order entered November 2, 2000.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ORDERED that with reference to Finding of Fact #8, a MONETARY PENALTY of \$250.00 is imposed upon Dr. Cropp. This monetary penalty shall be paid within sixty (60) days of entry of this Order. Further, it is ORDERED that the disposition of this matter as it relates to Findings of Fact #2 - #7 be CONTINUED GENERALLY subject to the following terms and conditions.

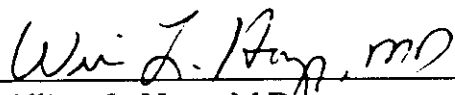
1. Dr. Cropp may practice medicine only in a Board approved residency program or, in the alternative, in a setting approved by the Executive Director of the Board; however, the alternative setting may not include performing surgery or invasive procedures.
2. In approximately one (1) year from entry of this Order, Dr. Cropp shall be noticed to reappear before a panel of the Board to review Dr. Cropp's compliance with this Order and for final disposition of this matter, to include modification of this Order.
3. Dr. Cropp shall update his Virginia Practitioner Profile within fifteen (15) days of entry of this Order to ensure that all information displayed is correct and accurate.

Violation of this Order shall constitute grounds for the revocation of the license of Dr. Cropp. In the event Dr. Cropp violates this Order, an administrative proceeding may be convened to determine whether the license of Dr. Cropp should be revoked.

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Dr. Cropp has thirty (30) days from the date of service (the date he actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to him, whichever occurred first) within which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director, Board of Medicine, at 6603 West Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23230. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-4023 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD



William L. Harp, M.D.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

EFFECTIVE: 6/10/03